

G O D

AND THE

K I N G:

OR, A

DIALOGUE.

SHEWING,

That Our Sovereign Lord the King of  
ENGLAND, being immediate under God  
within his Dominions, doth rightly claim  
whatsoever is required by the Oath  
of Allegiance.

Formerly compiled and printed by the especial Command of  
King JAMES (of blessed memory,) and now command-  
ed to be reprinted and published by his Majesties Royal Pro-  
clamation, for the Instruction of all his Majesties Subjects in  
their Duty and Allegiance.

LONDON,

Imprinted by his Majesties Special Priviledge and  
Command, 1663.

GOVERNMENT  
AND THE  
K. I. M. G.  
OR A  
PIANO DUO

BY  
J. M. G.  
WITH  
A  
PREFACE  
BY  
J. M. G.  
AND  
A  
PREFACE  
BY  
J. M. G.

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G O D  
AND THE  
K I N G:  
OR, A  
D I A L O G U E.  
SHEWING,

That our Sovereign Lord the King  
of *England*, being immediate under  
God within his Dominions, doth  
rightly claim whatsoever is  
required by the  
*OATH* of *ALLEGIANCE*.

*Theodidastus.*



YOU are well met friend *Philalethes*;  
your countenance and gesture im-  
port that your thoughts are much  
bused: what may be the occasion  
of these Meditations?

*Philalethes.* Somewhat I heard  
this Evening-Prayer from our Pa-  
stor in his Catechistical Expositions  
upon the fifth Commandment, \* Honor thy Father, and

thy

*Exodus 10.*

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thy Mother: who saith, that under these pious and reverent appellations of Father and Mother are comprised not only our natural Parents, but likewise all higher Powers, and especially such as have Sovereign Authority, as the Kings and Princes of the Earth.

*Theodidastus.* Is this Doctrine so strange unto you, as to make you muse thereat?

*Philalethes.* God forbid; for I am well assured of the truth thereof, both out of the Word of God, and from the Light of Reason. The sacred Scriptures do stile Kings and Princes the \*nursling Fathers of the Church, and therefore the nursing Fathers also of the Common-weal: these two Societies having so mutual a dependance, that the welfare of the one is the prosperity of the other.

\* Isaiah 42.

And the Evidence of Reason teacheth, that there is a stronger and higher bond of Duty between Children and the Father of their Countrey, than the Fathers of private Families. These procure the good onely of a few, and not without the assistance and protection of the other, who are the common Foster-fathers of thousands of Families, of whole Nations and Kingdoms, that they may live under them an honest and peaceable life.

There being so firm and near an Obligement of Subjects in Duty and Obedience unto their Prince, I could not but seriously meditate with my self, or rather enter into some thoughtful admiration, how there should be any so far unnatural, and forgetful of their many ways bounden and indebted Duty, as to enforce his most excellent Majesty to secure himself of his Subjects Loyalty and Allegiance by a solemn Oath.

*Theodidastus.* Such is the general pravity and corruption of men, that in most Kingdoms, and Common-weals, there have ever risen some seditious Coraks, and rebellious Shebans.

*Philal.* It may be upon some extraordinary provocation by the cruel Oppressions and insolent Tyrannies of Governors.

*Theodi-*

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*Theoſaid.* Nay, frequently, men, onely out of pride and ambition, or out of a blinde and intemperate zeal, or from the effect of both (when they are checked by the reigns of Government) repining discontent, have sown the tares of Sedition against the most vertuous and religious Princes; and ungratefully plotted their ruine, even when they have been most propitious and indulgent towards them.

What Prince was ever more merciful and compassionate then King *David*, as being fashioned and framed wholly according to his heart who is the God of Mercy and Compassion? yet (a) *wicked Sheba the son of Bichri* (a) 2 Sam. 20. *lifted up his hand against him, and blew the Trumpet of Schism and Sedition to rent his Kingdom from him.*

That peaceful and moderate Emperor *Augustus*, honored by his Enemies for his Princely virtues, was assailed (b) ten several times by Conspirators. *Vespasian*, even (b) *Suet. cap. 19* composed of mildness and clemency, (c) *had daily Treasons* against him; and his son *Titus*, for his pleasing and amiable virtues, termed by (d) *Suetonius*, the love and (d) *cap. 1.* *delight of mankind*, wanted not a (e) *traiterous Cæ-* (e) *Suet. cap. 6.* *cina.*

But leaving ancient and forreign, and to instance in modern and domestick Examples (as most powerful to perswade, being fresh in our memories) his Majesties clemency towards the *Romanists*, and Papal Faction, at his happy Entrance into this Kingdom, was rare and admirable; especially if we consider their disloyalty and sanguinary attempts against Queen *Elizabeth* of blessed memory, onely under pretence of promoting their Superstition, whereunto his Majesty was a constant and professed Opposite, as well as his Royal Sister.

In the beginning of Queen *Elizabeths* reign, the (a) *most part* of such as were addicted to the *Roman* (a) *Apology of Ecclesiastical Hierarch, cap. 1.* *Superstition*, communicating with us in Divine Service, lived free from all punishment or molestation, and enjoyed common favors and benefits with other of her

B

Majesties

Majesties loyal Subjects. Of which their practise the Pope being advertised by some fervent and zealous Romanists, and that hereby in time his adherents would by little and little wholly consociate themselves with our Church, and so all hope would be lost by a home-party, of seducing this Kingdom unto his Subjection, out of which his Predecessors had gathered such rich Treasures, *Pius Quintus*, to prevent so great a Damage unto the See of *Rome*, and for this purpose to make an open Schism between his devoted Vassals, and her Majesties dutiful and faithfull Subjects, he sent *Moreton*, an English Priest, to declare by his Papal Authority unto the then Earls of *Northumberland* and *Westmerland*, upon whom multitudes of Popish People in the North were dependant, that *Queen Elizabeth was an Heretique*, (and therefore that they ought to have no communion with her in civil affairs, much less in religious) *because, by being an Heretique, she was full from all Dominion and Power, and they were not compelled to obey her Laws and Commandments.*

Anno Domini  
1569. 11 Reg.  
Eliz.

Sand. lib. 7. de  
visib. Monarch.

(a) Stow in  
annal, 12 Eliz.

Whereupon they raised an Army of (a) four thousand Footmen, and six hundred Horse, for the maintenance of the Liberty of their Conscience, and the Reformation of Religion, pretending *they were driven to take this enterprise in hand, lest otherwise Forreign Princes might take it upon them, to the great peril of this Realm*: which Forces were soon vanquished, and one'y some chief Conspirators receiving condign punishment for their Rebellion: other Papists that did not partake in this seditious commotion (through the gracious disposition of her Majesty) enjoyed the same Liberty they did before.

But *Pius Quintus* was neither mitigated by her Majesties clemency, nor daunted with the ill success of his factious Complices: for being informed that his Projects took not that effect he expected (b) *because all the Catholiques knew not that Queen Elizabeth was declared an Heretique*, not long after he did publish a Bull, wherein,

(b) Sand. lib. 7.  
visib. Monarch.

one.

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out of the fulness of his Power, he denounced *Queen Elizabeth* an Heretique, and that such as did cleave unto her should incur his Curse; that she was deprived of all Dominion and Dignity; that her Nobles and People, or any other that had sworn Obedience unto her, were freed from this Oath, and from all Allegiance and Fidelity; commanding them not to obey her Laws upon pain of his Curse. And that this Bull might be the more generally known unto Romanists, and to gain undoubted credence thereunto, he caused it to be printed at *Rome*, to be signed by a publique Notary, sealed with the Seal of his Court; and at length, being sent into *England*, it was fastened by one *Felton*, deeply plunged in the Roman Superstition, upon the Gates of the Bishop of *London's* Palace.

And although these Papal thunders and curses of *Pius Quintus* were but as (c) the noise of thorns under the pot, (c) Eccles. 7. 8. and vanished like the vapor of smoke; yet *Gregory* the thirteenth, immediately succeeding *Pius Quintus*, confirmed and ratified his Bull, erected a \* Colledge at *Rome*, Anno 1578. 14 Eliz. gave a Pension to another Colledge at *Doway*, to be receptacles for Fugitives and discontented Persons in *England*, to be instructed in School-points of Sedition (as it is manifest by the Books and Writings of their then chief Masters and Oracles (d) *Bristow* and *Allen*) and from thence to be secretly conveyed into this Kingdom, to persuade men they were bound to obey the Popes Bulls and Excommunications, to renounce their natural Allegiance unto her Majesty, and take part with any Domestical or Foreign Power to depose her from her Regal Throne.

The most eminent and principal men of note amongst these Fugitives were the Jesuites *Campion* and *Parsons*, who, at the commandment of *Gregory* the thirteenth, coming towards this Kingdom, desired of him that the forenamed Bull of *Pius Quintus*, which himself also had established, might so be understood, (e) as to binde the Queen and the Heretiques (but not the Catholics) as matters then stood, but when there might be had a publique execution

(d) See *Bristows* Morives, Mor. 15. 40. and *Allen's* Defence, Eng. Cathol. c. 4.

(e) Instruments of this interpretation found amongst Papists.

1580.  
About this  
time Parsons  
writ the Rea-  
sons of Refusal  
of going to  
Protestant  
Churches; up-  
on which writ-  
ting (saith the  
Apology of the  
Ecclesiastical  
Hierarchy) when many  
chief men re-  
fused to go to  
Heretical Ser-  
vice, there was  
called a Parlia-  
ment in the  
end of the same  
year, and the  
Law of twenty  
pound a Month  
for Recusants  
was ordained,  
but no capital  
Law made a-  
gainst Priests,  
or their re-  
ceivers.

Anno Dom.  
1581. 24 Reg.  
Eliz.

execution thereof. With these Instructions they entred England; and Saunders the same time Ireland, with an Army from the Pope, to succor the Rebel Desmond. And as Saunders labored by violence and force of Arms to enthrall mens persons; so these, with artificial and plausible perswasions, to captivate their Souls: and prevailed with many, together with a refusal of communicating with us in the Religious Worship of God, to renounce their civil Duty and Allegiance unto their Sovereign.

And thus, by the seditious practises of Jesuites and Priests, this Separation of her Majesties Subjects from Divine Service daily increasing, and accompanied with a perilous dissolution of the bond of their civil Obedience; yet her Majesty, out of her great moderation and incomparable goodness of nature, impeached none of these rebellious Separatists, either in their Lives, Lands, Goods, or Liberties; but only, by a Decree in Parliament, punished them with a pecuniary mulct for the time they refused to come unto the Church, and published a Proclamation for the Revocation of all such as remained beyond the Seas under the colour of study, to be the Authors of Treasonable Attempts.

Wherewith these Seed-men of Sedition were no way suppressed, but rather did daily multiply, and at length grew unto that height of impiety, as to animate sundry desperate persons, and sons of Belial; as Arden,\* Parry, and others of the same rank, with hope of Eternal Salvation, to lay violent hands upon her Majesties sacred person: and became principal Agents to incite the King of Spain (then entering into Hostility with this Land) to invade the Realm, assuring him to have here a Party of Romanists, ready to assist such Power as he should set on Land, for subduing of this potent Kingdom.

Which unchristian and unnatural Enterprizes of Fugitive Jesuites and Priests, covered with the Mantle of Zeal and Religion, enforced her Majesty, after much patience and longanimity, to Enact by publique Authority of Parliament,

1584. 27 Eliz.

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liament, *That if any Jesuites or Priests, made in parts beyond the Seas, according to the rites of the Roman Church, came into this Realm, they should be adjudged Traitors, and suffer as in case of high treason.*

All these notorious seditions and rebellions, hatched and produced by the papal Faction, and their chief-  
tains Jesuits and Priests, out of a zeal to reduce into this Land the Idolatry of Rome; and the justice and equity of the forementioned laws, made by the late renowned *Queen*, to suppress and prevent them, were well known unto his most excellent Majesty: and therefore at his happy inauguration unto this Kingdom, out of his own matureness of judgment, and grounded perswasion of the Truth, being resolved to tread the steps of his Royal Sister, and by the light of the *Gospel* to extinguish the *Egyptian* darkness of Popery; he could not but in his Princely wisdom more then conjecture, that the like disloyal attempts might be practised against his sacred Dignity and Person by these *Romanists*. Notwithstanding, out of his gracious inclination unto Pity and Mercy, desiring to conquer Evil with Goodness, in the beginning of his Reign he set at liberty all Jesuits and Priests that were imprisoned; and unto such as lurked in secret corners of the Land, he gave them leave openly to profess themselves to be such: so that both by a certain day would depart the Realm. And as for other recusant Papists, refusing to partake with us in the sincere worship of GOD, he frees them from all pecuniary mulcts imposed upon them by the Law, honored many of them with Knighthood, gave them free access unto his Court and presence, bestowed equal favours upon them with their opposites in Profession. They were not provoked by any tyrannous Cruelty or Oppression unto any seditious Enterprises.

Philalethes. *Surely no, but rather had just cause to be truly dutiful, and loyal to his Majesty; who thus did change deserved Justice into Mercy and Clemency.*

*Theo-*



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*Theodidactus.* The Mercy indeed and Favour of Kings and Princes, is like a (a) cloud of the latter rain, and worketh much, even upon mindes not well disposed. But some of these *Romanists* were of so rancorous spirit, and brutish ingratitude, that whilest they peaceably enjoyed the fore cited Favours, they did plot a Treason barbarous for Cruelty, unmatched in regard of example, the Horrible Destruction by Gunpowder, of the King, Queen, their royal Progeny, and the whole Court of Parliament at once.

*Philal.* Did the bloody Actors of this monstrous attempt alledge no motive or reason thereof?

*Theod.* None but their fanatical zeal to promote the *Romish* Religion; which enraged affection out of charity is not to be supposed to be in all of that Profession, and in wisdom to be feared least it be in some, surviving these offenders: And therefore, to discern the one from the other, the Oath of Allegiance (which hath occasioned this our conference) was principally framed.

*Philal.* They that will be so impious as to lift up their hand against Gods anointed, little fear the hainous sin of Perjury, and therefore this Oath will not much avail to discover such treacherous Persons.

*Theod.* An Oath is a most sacred Bond, and with a secret terror, imprinted by the immediate finger of God in the taking thereof, doth so straitly oblige the inmost Soul and Conscience, that although many men be obdurate unto other grievous Sins, yet they will be tender and sensible of the violation of an Oath. *Very often (saith Saint Augustine) men provoke their wives, whom they suspect to be Adulterous, to clear themselves by an Oath; which they would not do, unless they did believe that those which fear not Adultery may fear Perjury: for indeed (saith he) some unchaste women, which have not feared to deceive their husbands by Wantonness, have been afraid to use God unto them as a witness of their Chastity.* In the marital Conjunction of the Husband and Wife, there is a lively resemblance

*Contra mendac.  
ad Conf. cap. 21.*



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seemblance of the Obligation of Subjects in civil Allegiance unto their Prince: for as the coupling of the Wife unto the husband in dutiful Obedience, so of Subjects unto their Prince in Loyalty and Fidelity, is a very arct and near Union: and as the (a) Husband is the head of (a) 1 Cor. 11. 3. the Wife, so is the (b) Prince of his Subjects. As there- (b) 1 Sam. 15. 17 fore experience in the daies of Saint *Augustine* taught, that Wives did rather dread wilful Perjury, then undutifulness towards their Husbands; so it is now to be presumed, that many Subjects will abhor the same crying Sin more then Disobedience.

Philal. \* But is there any example in former ages of the like Oath for the trying of the Loyalty of the Subjects unto their Sovereign?

Theod. About a thousand years since, the same Oath in substance was used in Spain, and ratified by the Carons of diverse famous Councils of Toledo: For whereas there was a general report, that there was such perfidiosis- Concil. Tolet. n. 4. ann. 74. ness in the mindes of many people of diverse Nations, that they made no Conscience of keeping their oaths and fidelity that they had sworn unto their Kings; but did disseminate a profession of fidelity in their mouthes (like unto equivocating Papists) when they held an impious perfidiosis (ness in their hearts: the fourth Council of Toledo decreed (as also other (a) Councils afterward held in the same (a) Concil. Tolet. 5. 6. 10. City) that (b) whosoever of us, or of all the people through (b) Can. 74. all Spain, shall go about, by any means of conspiracy or practise, to violate the oath of his fidelity, which he hath taken for the preservation of his Country, or of the Kings life; or who shall attempt to lay violent hands upon the King; or to deprive him of his Kingly power; or by tyrannical presumption usurp the Sovereignty of the Kingdom, let him be accursed in the sight of God the Father, and of his Angels; and let him be made and declared a stranger from the Catholick Church, which he hath profaned with his perjury.

Philal. Hath this oath any agreement and correspond-

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dente with the Oath of Allegiance unto the Kings Majesty?

*Throdidatus.* Almost in every point and circumstance, as you will easily perceive, if I shall but read the Oath of Allegiance unto you out of this book which I have in my hand: for the tenor hereof is thus word for word.

**I** *A. B.* Do truly and sincerely acknowledge, profess, testify and declare in my conscience before God and the world; That our Sovereign Lord King James is lawful and rightful King of this Realm, and of all other his Majesties Dominions and Countries; and that the Pope, neither of himself, nor by any Authority by the Church or See of Rome, or by any other means with any other, hath any power or Authority to depose the King, or to dispose any of his Majesties Kingdoms, or Dominions; or to authorize any Forreign Prince to invade or annoy him, or his Countries; or to discharge any of his Subjects of their Allegiance and Obedience to his Majesty; or to give licence or leave to any of them to bear Arms, raise tumults, or to offer any violence, or hurt, to his Majesties royal Person, State, or Government, or to any of his Majesties Subjects within his Majesties Dominions.

Also I do swear from my heart, that notwithstanding any declaration, or sentence of Excommunication, or Depprivation, made, or granted, or to be made, or granted by the Pope, or his Successors, or by any Authority, derived, or pretended to be derived from him, or his See, against the said King, his Heirs or Successors, or any absolution of the said Subjects from their obedience: I will bear Faith and true Allegiance to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and him and them will defend, to the uttermost of

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of my power, against all conspiracies and attempts whatsoever, which shall be made against his or their Persons, their Crown and dignity, by reason or colour of any such sentence, or declaration, or otherwise, and will do my best endeavour to disclose and make known unto his Majesty, his Heirs, and Successors, all Treasons, or Traiterous Conspiracies, which I shall know, or hear of, to be against him or any of them.

And I do further swear, that I do from my heart abhor, detest, and abjure, as impious and heretical, this damnable doctrine, and position, That Princes, which be excommunicated or deprived by the Pope, may be deposed, or murdered by their Subjects, or any other whatsoever.

And I do believe, and in Conscience am resolved, that neither the Pope, nor any person whatsoever, hath power to absolve me of this Oath, or any part thereof, which I acknowledge by good and full Authority to be lawfully ministered unto me, and do renounce all pardons and dispensations to the contrary. And all these things I do plainly and sincerely acknowledge and swear, according to these express words by me spoken, and according to the plain and common sense and understanding of the same words, without any equivocation, or mental evasion, or secret reservation whatsoever. And I do make this recognition and acknowledgement heartily, willingly, and truly, upon the true faith of a Christian: So help me God.

Philal. There is indeed between this Oath, and the former, established by the Councils of Toledo, a perfect harmony, if we respect the substance of the matter in them, save that the former Oath is more general and concise, the latter more diffuse and particular. And therefore I would intreat you, for my more clear and distinct apprehension thereof, to  
C SUMMUS SACERD. resolve

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resolve is into the several heads and branches of which it doth consist.

*Theod.* I shall presently give you satisfaction herein. In an Oath there is the matter or truth which we swear, or the form and manner how we are to swear. The manner of taking this Oath is, to swear plainly, sincerely, and without all equivocation, mental reservation, or secret interpretation, in (a) Justice, Judgement, and Truth; otherwise then that infamous Heretique (b) Arius swore, who being demanded by the Emperor, whether he would subscribe unto the *Nicene Faith*, which condemned his Heresie, denying the Godhead of Christ; he forthwith yielded hereunto: and being further required by the Emperor (suspecting his dissimulation) to swear unto the same faith, he writ his own Heretical Confession, subscribed it, hid it in his bosom; and then, having a mental relation unto his Confession, he took an Oath that he had truly and from his heart subscribed. In which perfidious action, the wretched Heretique was either ignorant, or wilfully forgetful, that by (c) whatsoever are of words any man sweareth, yet God, who is the witness of the conscience, accepteth it, as he doth to whom the Oath is made.

The matter or main subject of this Oath, which is the principal thing whereof I conceive you desire to have a more distinct and full understanding, may to this purpose be resolved into these ensuing assertions.

1. Our Sovereign Lord King James is the lawful King of this Kingdom, and of all other his Majesties Dominions and Countries.

2. The Pope, neither by his own Authority, nor by any other Authority of the Church, or of the See of Rome, nor by any other means, with any others help, can depose his Majesty.

3. The Pope cannot dispose of any of his Majesties Kingdoms and Dominions.

4. The Pope cannot give Authority to any

For

(a) Jer. 4. 2.  
(b) Socrat.  
Hist. l. i. c. 25.  
Nicom. Hist.  
lib. 3. c. 5.

(c) Tisdor.  
Hispul. Senten.  
l. i. c. 31. Bern.  
de inter. Dom.  
c. 15.

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Foreign Prince to invade his Dominions.

5. The Pope cannot discharge his Subjects of their Allegiance unto his Majesty.

6. The Pope cannot give licence to one or more of his Subjects to bear arms against him.

7. The Pope cannot give leave to any of his Subjects to offer violence unto his Royal Person, or to his Government, or to any of his Majesties Subjects.

8. Although the Pope shall by sentence excommunicate, or depose his Majesty, or absolve his Subjects from their obedience, notwithstanding they are to bear faith and true Allegiance unto his Majesty.

9. If the Pope shall by sentence excommunicate or depose his Majesty; nevertheless his Subjects are bound to defend his Person and Crown against all attempts and conspiracies whatsoever.

10. If the Pope shall give out any sentence of excommunication, or deprivation against his Majesty; notwithstanding his Subjects are bound to reveal all Conspiracies, and Treasons against his Majesty, which shall come to their hearing and knowledge.

11. It is Heretical and detestable, to hold, that Princes, being excommunicated by the Pope, may be deposed or murdered by their Subjects, or any other.

12. The Pope hath not power to absolve his Majesties Subjects from their Oath of Allegiance, or any part thereof.

Philal. By these assertions thus distinctly proposed, I confess I do conceive the principal contents of the Oath more clearly then before: But I would not onely have a full and thorough apprehension of this Oath, but likewise upon any occasion, for the more expedite performance of my duty unto his excellent Majesty, readily remember it, which I shall be

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*the better able to do, if you would be pleased to reduce this multiplicity of assertions unto some fewer heads.*

*Ne juramenti  
partes vera sunt  
quod Jacobus  
fit legitimus  
Rex Angliæ  
Scotiæ, Hiber-  
niæ, &c.  
Beca. controu.  
Angli. cap. 3.*

*Theod.* This may easily be accomplished: There are two special grounds or foundations of true Sovereignty in our gracious Lord the King. The one, that *receiving his Authority onely from God, he hath no Superior to punish or chastise him but God alone.* The other, that *the bond of his Subjects in obedience unto his Sacred Majesty is inviolable, and cannot be dissolved.* These two general heads (presupposing the undoubted truth of the first assertion [*Our Sovereign Lord King James is the Lawful King of this Kingdom, and all other his Dominions and Countries*]) because the most \* seditious impugnors of his Majesties Crown and dignity freely acknowledge it) comprise all the other assertions, as even now I severally proposed them out of the Oath of Allegiance.

\* Every English Catholick doth profess his Majesty to be his true and lawful King, *Parson*: in his judgement of the Apology, part. 1. num. 36.

For to begin then with the first head: seeing that when God would denounce his most heavy Judgments against wicked Kings that transgress his Law, as against *Saul* and *Rehoboam*, he threatneth them with renting their Kingdoms from them, and making their houses desolate; the *deposing of a King*, the *disposing of his Dominions* unto another, the *hostile invading of his Countries*, must needs be a grievous Chastisement; And therefore if his Majesty hath no Superior beside God to punish him, the Pope as his Superior cannot by any means whatsoever *depose him, dispose of his Dominions, invade his Countries*, which is the effect and substance of the second, third, and fourth Assertions.

*Rhilal.* Doth the same general ground of his Majesties Kingly Sovereignty comprehend the rest of the assertions?

*Theod.* No; for they are all contained within the limits of the second principle of Regal Sovereignty, *That the bond of the Kings Subjects in Obedience unto his Majesty is inviolable, and cannot be dissolved.* This will be evident unto you by a compendious recital of the chief parts and duties of Allegiance from a Subject to his

Prince



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Prince. And we cannot learn these duties from a better Master than God himself, who hath so exactly taught them in his sacred Word.

The general duty which God enjoyneth upon all men, *to eschew evil and do good*, is diffused through the particular duties of every man; whether it be the duty of a servant unto his Master, of a son unto his Father, or of a subject unto his Prince. And in the Allegiance of a Subject unto his Sovereign, the *Evill* he is to *eschew* is *evill in Action*, for he is not to (b) *touch* him with any (b) *Psal. 105.* hurtful touch, nor to (c) *stretch out his hand against his* (c) *1 Sam. 15.* *sacred Person*, nor so much as to affright, or disgrace him, by cutting the lap of his Garment: *Evil in Words*, for (d) *he is not to curse his Ruler*: *Evill in Cogitations*, for (d) *Exod. 22.* *he is not to* (e) *curse the King in his thought*. So likewise (e) *Ecc. 10.* the good which he is to do, out of Obedience unto his Prince, is in *Deed*; by (f) *paying Tribute* unto him for (f) *Rom. 13.* his Regal support, by fighting his Battels with *Joab*, adventuring his life with *David*, to vanquish his Enemies: in *Speech*, by revealing with religious (g) *Mordecai* the treasonable designments of *Rigan* and *Tereſh*, by pouring out prayers (h) and supplications for his welfare: in (h) *1 Tim. 2.* Thought, by esteeming and honoring him from the heart, and out of (i) *Conscience*, as the (k) *anointed of the Lord*, (i) *Rom. 13.* *Gods holy Ordinance*, and *Minister*, and as a (l) *God upon* (l) *Eſay 45.* *earth*: for this is to obey him for the (m) *Lords sake*, (m) *1 Pet. 2.* *to fear God*, and *honour the King* (n); when we fear God, (n) *1 Pet. 2.* by whom the (o) *King* reigneth, and his throne is *established*, (o) *Prov. 8. 2.* *blissed*.

Now if the Subjects of our Sovereign, out of their *Allegiance* unto his Majesty, are not to lay violent hands upon his sacred Person, but to succor and defend him even with the hazzard of their lives: not to curse him with their tongues; but to bless him by prayers and supplications; and preserve him by discovering all attempts against his life and dignity: not to harbour in their Souls any evil thought of him; but from their heart to honour him as Gods Vicergerent here upon earth: and

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the Bond of this Allegiance (as the second ground of Kingly Sovereignty averreth) is inviolable, and cannot by any means be dissolved: then, although the Pope doth arrogantly presume to discharge them from their Allegiance unto his Majesty, to absolve them from their Oaths of Obedience, to give licence unto them to bear Arms against him, and offer violence unto his person, to excommunicate and depose his Majesty; all these impious and irreverent practices are in vain; and notwithstanding, they are not to depose, or murder his Majesty, or any way to offer violence unto his sacred Person, Crown, and Dignity; but to defend him against all Conspiracies, to reveal all Treasons against his Majesty, and bear unto him faith and true Allegiance.

Philalethes. I do now fully conceive how the two props and pillars of supreme Authority in his excellent Majesty, which you have proposed, do briefly and as it were by way of Epitome, comprise all the chief and material points of the Oath: and although I am most assured in my Conscience of their firmness and immoveable Stability in the truth; yet to be the more enabled for the justifying of them unto others, I would request you to shew how these pillars are supported, and upon what foundations they are built.

Theod. Hercunto I do willingly condescend, and will first discover unto you the foundations of the first Prop, or Pillar; Our Sovereign Lord King <sup>7</sup>AMES, receiving his Authority onely from God, hath no Superior to chastise and punish him but God alone.

The ancient practice of this Kingdom is clear for this Truth: Bracton, \* twenty years chief Justice under Henry the third, in his \* Customs of England saith; There are under the King freemen, and servants are subject unto his power, as also whatsoever is under him; and he himself is subject to no man, but onely unto God. And again, if there be any offence committed by him, so far as much as there is no breve to enforce or constrain him, there may be supplication made that he would correct and amend his fault: which if he shall not do, it is abundantly sufficient punishment.

\* Ball.

\* 1 Contena.  
rubrica. 35.

Et ipse sub nul-  
lo nisi tantum  
sic Dico.



for him that he is to expect God a revenger : for no man may presume \* judicially to examine his doings, much less \* Disquire, to oppose them by Force and Violence. And this is no other Kingly Sovereignty then God himself hath given unto his Majesty: I counsel thee (saith God by the mouth of (p) Solomon) to keep the Kings Commandment, and that in regard of the Oath of God: be not hasty to go out of his fight, stand not in an evil thing, for he doth whatsoever pleaseth him. Where the Word of a King is, there is power, and who may say unto him, what dost thou? An evident testimony, that as Kings are subject unto God, whom (q) we are to obey rather then men; so they are subject onely unto God, and have no mortal man their Superior, who may require of them an account of their doings, and punish them by any judicial Sentence.

And this divine Verity was not onely taught by Solomon, but likewise by his father David; who, out of a Consideration of the eminency of this Regal Authority, subject onely unto the severe Judgment of God, poureth out before him this penitent Confession: (r) Against thee, against thee onely have I sinned. Against thee onely: for he was a King (saith \* Ambrose) not bound unto Law, because Kings are free from the bond of Crimes, and are not called unto punishment by any Law, being safe by the power of Command: therefore David sinned not against man, unto whom he was not obnoxious, in regard of Punishment; but of Admonition onely, and Reproof, uttered in the Name, and by the Authority of God himself.

Hereupon the Prophet Nathan, having used this Preface (Thus saith the Lord) admonished King David that he should expiate his sin by Repentance, but he gave no sentence against him whereby according to the Law he might be adjudged unto Death. For if Nathan had given any such sentence against David, he should have had power to deprive him of his Life, and so of that which he enjoyed by his Life, his Regal Authority; which God only can take away from Princes, because he alone bestoweth it upon them.

- For from whence have they received their Sovereignty to be here upon earth as gods over men? God himself answereth, *(f) I* (and not any creature whatsoever) *have said, ye are Gods*: and as by my Word the world was made; so are ye appointed by the same Word to rule the world. Who hath given unto them their Kingdoms? the most High, *(i) he ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.* What power hath seated them in their Thrones? The power of the Almighty, *(u) Reges* (as the vulgar Translation readeth it) *collocas in solio*, he placeth Kings in the Throne. And by whom do they sway their Scepters, and govern their Kingdoms? By Gods special Authority, *(x) by me* (saith God himself) *do Kings reign, and decree justice*, by his immediate power who is *(y) Lord and King of all the earth.* And to descend unto particulars, Doth not God by the mouth of his Prophet Nathan tell David, *(z) I anointed thee King over Israel*? doth not Solomon acknowledge, that *(a) the Lord hath established him, and set him on the throne of his father David*? was it not the saying of the Prophet Ahijah in the person of God unto Jeroboam, *(b) I will give the kingdom unto thee*? Neither the kingdom only, and the power of Princes, but all things else proper unto them, are after a peculiar manner Gods. Their *(c) Crown*, their *(d) Anointing*, their *(e) Scepter and Throne* are Gods; and their persons, adorned with all these, are so Divine and Sacred, that they themselves are the *(f) Angels of God*, and *(g) sons of the most High.*
- (f) Psal. 82.*  
*(i) Dan. 4.*  
*(u) Job 36.*  
*(x) Prov. 8.*  
*(y) Psal. 47.*  
*(z) 2 Sam. 12.*  
*(a) 1 King. 1.*  
*(b) 1 King. 11.*  
*(c) Psal. 21.*  
*(d) Psal. 89.*  
*(e) 2 Chron. 9.*  
*(f) 2 Sam. 14.*  
*(g) Psal. 82.*

Philal. If the Persons of Princes are so Sacred, and their Authority is thus Wholly from God, how is it said in the holy Scriptures that some of the Kings even now mentioned were made by the people, and so received their Regal power from them, and by their Election? Is it not said of Saul, *(h) that all the people went to Gilgal, and there made him King before the Lord*? Of David, *(i) the men of Judah anointed David king of Judah, the Elders of Israel anointed David king over Israel*?

Theod.

*Theodidastus.* <sup>k</sup> *Zadik* the Priest and *Nathan* the Pro-<sup>k 1</sup> King 1.  
phet anointed *Solomon* King, and the Lord also anointed  
him; otherwise he had not been the Lords anointed, but the  
anointed of *Zadik* and *Nathan*. The Lord anointed *Solo-*  
*mon* as Master of the substance, and gave unto him his Re-  
gal power; *Zadik* and *Nathan* anointed *Solomon*, as Master  
of the ceremony, and declared that God had given unto  
him this power. For outward unction doth not confer up-  
on Kings their authority (when without it <sup>1</sup> *Cyrus*, and <sup>1</sup> *Esay* 45.  
before the use thereof some of the <sup>m</sup> Patriarchs co-<sup>m 1</sup> *Chro.* 16.  
ver their families were the anointed of the Lord), but it is  
a sign only of Sovereignty, because if we poure oyl into the  
same vessel with any other liquor, it wil be alway uppermost.

The Elders then of *Judah* and *Israel* <sup>n</sup> anointing *Da-*<sup>n 2</sup> *Sam.* 2.  
*vid* King, did manifest him to be their King; but did not  
give unto him the right unto his Kingdom, this was only  
from the <sup>o</sup> Lords appointing. <sup>o 1</sup> *Sam.* 16.  
<sup>2</sup> *Sam.* 5.  
<sup>p 1</sup> *Sam.* 10.

In like manner *Saul* first <sup>p</sup> anointed by the Lord to be  
Captain over his Inheritance, upon the Petition of the peo-  
ple <sup>q</sup> set a King over them by the Lord, and chosen im-<sup>q</sup> *Ibid.*  
mediately by God to be a King, as <sup>r</sup> *Matthius* was to be <sup>r</sup> *Act.* 1.  
an Apostle by casting lots; God made him King; he only  
gave unto him Kingly power, and not the people: who  
notwith<sup>h</sup>anding after all this, are said to <sup>\*</sup> make him King <sup>\*</sup> *7-<sup>on</sup>*  
by approving him as made by God, and receiving him in-  
to the possession of his Kin- dom to exercise his Regal au-  
thority, whom the sons of *Belial* had rejected. The peo-  
ple then made *Saul* King, not by giving unto him the right  
of his Kingdom, but by putting him into the possession of  
his Kingdom to reign over them: For the Jewes by Gods  
special <sup>t</sup> commandement being to make such a one King,  
whom their Lord God had chosen, unto whom their Lord  
God had given Regal Authority, from their Lord God,  
and not from themselves, from heaven and not from earth,  
was the Sovereignty of their Princes. <sup>t</sup> *Deut.* 17.

For as in the Spiritual Graces which God mercifully be-  
stoweth upon the faithful, neither the outward ministry of  
*Paul* in planting, nor of *Ap. Ho* in watering, is any thing, but

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u 1 Cor. 3.

*u* God giveth the increase: So in the civil power which God vouchsafeth unto Princes, the people are not *any thing* in regard of giving this Authority, But God only is the free Donor thereof.

*Philale.* Although the power of Princes is not from the people; yet it is often derived unto them from their noble Progenitors by succession, or obtained through their own prowess; and by lawful conquest: how then is it onely, and immediately from God?

*Theodidactus.* Succession, and lawful conquest, are Titles whereby Princes receive their Authority, they are not the original, and immediate fountain of this Authority. Heat, moisture, cold, driness, and our temper arising from them (whiles we are miraculously fashioned in our mothers womb) are preparations whereby our bodies are made fit receptacles for our souls; but the *y* Creator of our soul is God: So Princes have just claim unto their Sovereign power by the titles of succession & conquest; but the prime Author of their power is God. *Inde illis est potestas* (saith *z Tertullian*) *unde spiritus*: thence have they their power whence their spirit. And before him *a Irenaeus*: *Cumque jussu nascuntur homines, ejus jussu constituuntur Principes*: By whose appointment they are born men and made reasonable creatures (and that is by God only who *b* infuseth into them their soul by creating it) by his appointment are they made Princes. And as they receive their power only from God, so for the good or evil administration thereof, they are accountable only unto God, as unto their Superiour, and not unto any mortal creature. God only maketh them Kings, and God only can unmake them, and deject them from their Thrones.

*Philalethes.* Were not the Priests amongst the Jewes Superiours unto their Kings to judge, and dethrone them, if they were delinquent?

*Theodidactus.* No, rather Priests were subject unto Kings, and punished by them for their offences. *c Abimelek* the Priest acknowledged himself King *Sauls* servant. *Let not the King impute any thing unto his servant*, saith *Abimelek*, speaking

*y* Ecclef. 12.

*z* Apolog. c. 30.

*a* Lib. 5. cont.  
*Har.*

*b* Lombard. l. 2.  
*Sentent. distinct.*  
17.

*c* 1 Sam. 12.

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speaking of himself. And again unto King *Saul*: thy servant knew nothing of this. And lest it might be thought that these words were uttered by a timorous spirit, unto *Saul* a Tyrant; *David* a religious Prince calleth *Zadok* the Priest his servant. Neither was *Solomon* behind *David* his father in the knowledge of his Sovereign authority over Priests, when he deposed *Abiathar* the high Priest, and placed *Zadok* in his room. d 1 King. 1.  
e 1 King. 2.

*Philaetbes*. Indeed the text saith, *Solomon* cast out *Abiathar* from being a Priest unto the Lord: but some attribute this fact of deposition unto *Solomon* as he was a Prophet: because it immediately followeth in the same text, that he might fulfil the words of the Lord against the house of *Ely*. f 1 King 2.

*Theodidactus*. The fulfilling of this prophesie was not the motive that excited *Solomon* to depose *Abiathar*, but *Abiathars* conspiracy and treason with *Adonijah*: for the words, that he might fulfil, &c, do not shew the cause why *Solomon* did cast out *Abiathar*, but the consequent of this fact; which was foretold by a Prophet, but not accomplished by *Solomon* as a Prophet. Men foretel things to come as Prophets, they do not put the things foretold in execution as Prophets: For then the soldiers were Prophets casting lots upon Christs garment, that the Scripture might be fulfilled; *Herod* was a Prophet fulfilling the prophesie of *Jeremie*, by murdering the Innocents. And many other instances might be given in this kinde, which I pass over, because the main point which occasioneth the producing of them, the subjection of Priests among the Jewes unto their Kings, is ingeniously acknowledged by some of the Jesuits. In the Old Testament (saith one of the first and chiefeft of that seditious order) under the Law of Nature, or of Moses, Priests were subject unto Kings. g 1 King. c. 12.  
h John 19.  
i Matth. 2.  
k Salmer. 1. art. 63. de potestate ecclesiastice & seculari.

*Philaetbes*. I have heard of other Romanists that have exalted the Jewish high Priests above the Thrones of Kings, and that do alledge unto this purpose some particular examples: As of the high Priest *Azarja*, who with four-score other Priests valiantly assailed King *Oziah* stricken with l 2 Chron. 26.  
m Allen. de sen. Eng. Caib. c. c.

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\* Allen: *ibid.* with the leprosie, for burning Incense unto the Lord, \* did  
 \* Levit. 13. thrust him by force out of the Temple; according to the  
 \* *Auflo-itate* Levitical Law against Lepers constrained him to go out  
*regnandi. Bel-* of the City, and deprived him \* of his Kingly Authoritie.  
*larm. lib. 5. de* Of *P Jehoids*, who being chief Priest, caused Queen *Athal-*  
*Pont Rom c. 8.* *lia* to be slain, because she \* maintained the Idolatrous  
 \* *Pont. c. 8.* worship of *Baal*, and made *Joram* King in her stead.  
 \* *Fov: or culum* *Theodidactus.* These facts of *Azaria* & *Jehoids*, if they were  
*Baal. Bellarm. l.* since ely related out of the Book of God, they would make  
 \* *5. de Pont. c. 8.* little for the superiority of Priests over Kings. For first the  
 Scripture saith not that *Azaria* violently assailed *Ozia*, or did  
 by force thrust him out of the Temple: he was \* compelled  
 (without any force from *Azariah*, by the immediate hand  
 of God, striking him with leprosie, to go out thence. And  
 when it is said \* *Azariah* the chief Priest with others caused  
*Ozia* hastily to depart from the Temple, this (as \* *Josephus*  
 doth testifie) was only by words and admonition. And  
 \* *Chrysostome* giveth the reason, *For the office of a Priest is*  
*only to reprove, and freely to admonish, not to move arms; nor*  
*to use bucklers, nor to shake a lance, neither to bend a bowe, nor*  
*to shoot forth darts, but onely to argue and freely to admonish.*  
*Regem Ierosolam*  
*ad festine egre-*  
*diendum moneat*  
 \* *De verb. Isia* old when he was made King, reigned two and fifty years, and  
 \* *did. Don H: 4.* \* died being threescore and eight years old And although  
 \* *12 King. 15.* by reason of his Leprosie dwelling apart according unto  
 the prescript of the Law, his Son *Joram* was his vicege-  
 rant to \* rule the Kings house and the people of the Land:  
 yet until *Ozia* was buried with his Fathers *Joram* reigned  
 not in his stead, he had not the right of the Kingdom.  
 \* *Philaster.* You have given a sufficient answer unto this  
 example of *Azaria*; but the other of *Jehoids* seemeth to  
 have more difficulty.

\* *Theodidactus.* In this instance likewise I shall, I trust, ea-  
 sily give you satisfaction, if you will but call unto mind, first  
 how *Abazia* \* son of *Joram*, and \* King of *Judah*, dying, his  
 mother *Athalia* \* *sw all the Kings seed save Joram* the son  
 of.

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of *Abazia*, whom *Jehoshaba* his Aunt, and Wife unto *Jehoiada* the high Priest had stollen from among the Kings Sons that should be slain, and hid him in the house of the Lord six years.

Secondly, That *Jehoiada* not as high Priest, but as *Joas's* Uncle by marriage, and a Protector over him by reason of this alliance; and not alone, but <sup>d</sup> with the Captains of hundreds, with the Levites out of all Cities, and with the chief fathers of Israel, brought forth *Joas* King *Abazias* son, did put upon him the Crown, and declared him to be King who was rightfully so, both by the title of succession, and <sup>e</sup> Gods own special appointment.

Thirdly, After they had thus seated *Joas* in his Regal Throne, by his authority, *Jehoiada* commanded *Athalia* as a bloody Usurper of the Kingdom to be slain, so that indeed *Joas* the true heir of the Scepter of *Judah*, and not *Jehoiada* the Priest, punished *Athalia* usurping the Crown.

*Philalthes*. I do now plainly perceive that such as endeavour to advance the Miter above the Crown, the Priesthood above Regal power, have no ground hereof in the Old Testament: yet peradventure out of the New Testament they may alledge somewhat for this preposterous subordination

*Theodidastus*. If Kings before the coming of Christ had supream Authority over Priests and all sorts of men within the circuit of their jurisdictions: Christ since hath not diminished, or embased this Sovereignty. *Audite Judaei, & Gentiles* (saith Saint <sup>\*</sup> *Augustine* speaking in the person of <sup>\*</sup> *Tractat. 115.* his Saviour) *audi circumciso, audi praeputium, audite regna terrena, &c.* Hearken ye Jewes, hearken ye Gentiles, hearken Circumcision, hearken uncircumcision, hear all earthly Kingdoms; I do not hinder your ruling and reigning in this world, *My Kingdom is not of this World*, it is heavenly and spiritual. And therefore <sup>s</sup> Christ hath not made <sup>s</sup> *Hom. 22. nra.* Laws to overthrow policies and States, but for the better <sup>13. 21. 14.</sup> ordering and establishing of them.

Is not this one of his inviolable decrees promulgated by  
his



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<sup>h</sup> Rom. 13.

hiselect Servant and Apostle <sup>h</sup> Saint Paul: *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.*

*Philalethes.* What higher powers?

*Theodidactus.* Such as bear the sword, to whom tribute

\* *Jesuits Peter.*  
disputat. 10. nu.  
13 ad Rom.

\* *Atque omnes*  
*ferè veteres.*

is due. And hence \* *Augustine, Chrysostome,* \* and almost all the ancients, have understood Paul to speak, *tantum*, only of secular powers?

*Philalethes.* Who are subject unto these higher secular powers?

\* *Chrysost.* in 13.  
ad Roman. with  
whom Theodor.  
Theophil. Oecum.  
men. do accord.  
i A&E. 25.

*Theodidactus.* Every soul, \* although an Apostle, an Evangelist, a Prophet, whosoever he be. This the Apostle St. Paul himself did testify in his own person, who <sup>i</sup> stood at *Cæsars* judgment, where (saith he) <sup>i</sup> ἐγὼ καὶ οὐδεὶς οὐκ ἔγωγε I ought to be judged, unto whose sentence out of dutie I am to submit my selfe.

And no marvel if Saint Paul acknowledged himself subject unto *Cæsar*, when his Master Christ paid unto him tribute, and confessed one of *Cæsars* subordinate Magistrates, <sup>k</sup> *Pilate* to have power over him, and that given from above.

<sup>k</sup> John 19.

<sup>i</sup> Heb.

Our eternall <sup>i</sup> high Priest, as man, thus humbling himself under the command of civil powers; his chief Disciple Saint Peter also writeth unto his fellow Presbyters, whom hee exhorteth <sup>m</sup> to feed the flock of God, that they would submit themselves unto the <sup>n</sup> King as unto the Superior.

<sup>m</sup> i Pet. 5. 2.  
<sup>n</sup> i Pet. 2. 15.

*Philalethes.* These two exhortations of Saint Peter, that his fellow Presbyters would feed the flock of God, and also submit themselves unto Kings, seem to be repugnant one to the other; For Kings that have given their names to Christ are sheep of Gods fold, and so to <sup>o</sup> obey their spiritual Pastors having over-sight of them. And if Kings are to obey their spiritual Pastors, how are spiritual Pastors subject unto Kings.

Heb. 13.

*Theodidactus.* P All the tribes of Israel (and therefore the tribe of Levi and the Priests) witnessed that the Lord had said to David thou shalt feed my people Israel. And

King



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King *David* himself calleth them his  $\gamma$  sheep: Kings then are also Pastors, and all within their dominions, even Priests themselves are sheep of their fold.

*Phalatesher*. This instance doth not satisfie the doubt I moved, but rather doth strengthen it: for how can Kings and Priests be mutually Pastors one to another?

*Theodidactus*. After a divers manner. A Pastor, or Shepherd (saith *Chrysostome*) may with great authority enforce his sheep to suffer the curing of their wounds when they are not willing hereto, and may compel them to keep in fertile and safe pastures, if they go astray and feed in barren places. Such kind of Pastors by a borrowed speech are Kings, who may command their Subjects by the terrour, and compulsion of corporal punishments. But *Bishops* or *Priests* (as the same *Chrysostome* speaketh) are to move men by perswasion spiritually to be cured, and not by offering violence, as Lords over Gods heritage.

As therefore all the faithful are to submit themselves one to another, in Christian reproofs, and admonitions; So Princes are to be obedient unto spiritual Pastors, beseeching them as Embassadors from Christ, and delivering unto them his heavenly message. And if Princes by this message learning what is acceptable unto God, shall by their Authority enjoyn it publickly to be embraced, they may enforce the same spiritual Pastors to obey his command by temporal chastisements.

A Prince sailing unto some forraign Port in his own ship, and guided by his own Subjects, in this maritime passage he submitteth himself unto the conduct and direction of the Pilot; whom notwithstanding, if he wilfully erreth in the performance of his duty, he may severely punish with loss of liberty, goods, or life: So Princes in the Church, which the Antients have resembled unto a ship, walking towards the Port of Heaven, they are to hearken unto the meanest of Gods servants, sincerely declaring unto them the sacred will of God; yet if they shall publish rather their

own

*q 2 Sam. 14.*  
*David cum Angelum vidisset percutientem in plebem, ait ego peccavi, & ego pastor malignus feci, & hic grex quid fecit? Ambros. Epist 28.*  
*Lib 2. de Sacerd.*

*Ibid.*  
*1 Pet. 5.3.*

*1 Pet. 5.5.*

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own errors than Gods truth, or otherwise offend, Princes may correct and punish them, and they are patiently to obey.

Princes then owe obedience unto Gods direction uttered by his Embassadors for the salvation of their souls, by reason of which pretious benefit \* ordinarily attending their Ministry, *Nothing* (saith \* Ambrose) *is more excellent, nothing more sublime than a Bishop.* And again, Gods Ministers owe obedience unto Princes, and are subject unto their coercive punishments; who are free from all punishments that man may inflict. In which respect \* *Tertulian* in the name of all the Christians in his daies, saith, *We honour the Emperour in such sort as is lawful for us, and expedient for them as a man next unto God, and obtaining from God whatsoever he hath, and only inferior unto God.*

*Philalethes.* Did any other Fathers of the primitive Church acknowledge this eminent Sovereignty in the Emperors of those times.

*Theodidastus.* As many as had occasion to write hereof.

\* *Optatus* saith: *There is not any man above the Emperour.*

\* *Chrysostome* saith of the Emperour *Theodosius*: *He had no man equal unto him upon earth, he was the top and head of all men upon earth.* \* *Cyrl* writeth unto *Theodosius* the younger: *Vestra serenitati, unto your Excellencie there is no state equal, much lesse superiour.* \* *Agapetus* affirmeth of the Emperour *Iustinian*, *He hath a higher dignity than any man: he hath not upon Earth any higher than himself.*

*Philalethes.* If the ancient Fathers of such different times (for between *Optatus* and *Agapetus* there were neer two hundred years) almost in the same phrase of speech so extolled the dignity of the Emperour; when did the Bishop of *Rome* challenge his pretended eminency above the Emperour?

*Theodosius*

\* Jo 20.

\* *De dignitat.*

*Sacerd cap. 3.*

\* *Ad Scapulum*

\* *Lib 3.*

\* *Hom. 2 ad pp.*

*Antioch.*

\* *Præfat. lib.*

*advers. Julian.*

\* *In para. ne.*

*nu. 1. & nu. 21.*

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*Theodidastus.* Not five hundred years after Christ: For then Pelagius the first Roman Bishop of that name thus writeth unto Childebert King of France: 'With how great study and labour are we to strive, that for removing the scandal of suspicion, we may minister the obsequiousness of our confession unto KINGS, unto whom the holy Scripture commandeth us to be subject. Neither six hundred years after Christ: for about that time <sup>b</sup> Gregory the great, likewise Bishop of Rome, religiously confessed, that power was given from above unto the Emperour above all men. And then reckoning himself in this number of all men, <sup>c</sup> addeth, I being subject unto your command, not out of fained humility, but out of conscience and duty, on both parts have payed what <sup>d</sup> I ought, because I have yielded obedience unto the Emperour, and not holden my peace in what I thought for God. Nay, nine hundred years from Christ, the Bishops of Rome were in such subjection unto the Emperours, that even in that age the Emperours punished them with the deprivation of their Bishopricks, if they were criminous, as Otto the Emperour deposed John the 22. for his impure and vitious life.

a Epist. 16 ad Childeb. tom. 2 Concil.

b Lib. 2 Epist. Epist. 61.

c Ego iussimus subiectus.

d Quod debu.

*Philalæthes.* At what time then did the Bishop of Rome first so far exalt himself above the Emperours, as to presume to deprive them of their imperial Crowns, and depose them from their Thrones?

*Theodidastus.* More then a thousand years from the Ascension of our blessed Saviour. Gregory the seventh, otherwise called Hildebrand, chosen Bishop of Rome about the year of our Lord 1073. was the first that did attempt this profane and scandalous outrage against the Emperour Henry the fourth.

e Bellar. in Chron.

I read and read again (saith <sup>f</sup> Otto Frisingensis an Historian, living near the times of Hildebrand) the gestes of the Roman Kings and Emperours, and nowhere I find any of them, before this man (Henry the fourth) excommunicated by the Bishop of Rome, or deprived of his kingdom. And the ill success of the chief Actors in this furious attempt of deposing this Emperour, might well have discouraged the

f Lego & velgo. Lib. 6. cap. 35. g. Nuquam invenio quumq. amice hunc.

E

the

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the Bishops of Rome in succeeding ages to meddle again with such ungodly enterprises. Rodolph Duke of Suevia whom (at the instigation of Gregory the seventh) some of the Princes of Germany had set up to take the Empire from Henry the fourth by force of armes, in fighting against this Emperour he lost his right hand: and when, by reason of that and other wounds, he was ready to breath out his distressed soul, <sup>a</sup> looking on the stump of his arm, and fetching a deep sigh, <sup>b</sup> he said unto the Bishops that were about him, Behold this is the hand wherewith I did swear allegiance to my Sovereign Lord Henry. And Pope Hildebrand himself (whiles he was in contention with the same Emperour, to depose him) by the consent of his own people the Romans, <sup>c</sup> was deprived of his Popedom; and afterwards lying at the point of death, <sup>d</sup> he called unto him one of the twelve Cardinals, whom he loved above the rest, and confessed unto God, Saint Peter, and the whole Church, that he had greatly sinned in the Pastoral charge which was committed unto him, and that at the instict of the Devil he had stirred hatred and heart-burning amongst men. For Hildebrands deposing of Henry the fourth, was like the Violence of a tempest, which stirred up so many calamities, so many schismes, so many perils of bodies and souls, that it ayme (saith Otho <sup>e</sup> Frisengensis) through the fierceness and continuance thereof, may sufficiently prove the greatnes of mans misery.

Philalethes. Two most remarkable examples! they do clearly illustrate that speech of the Wise-man, Take not part with the seditious; for who knoweth the ruine of them both? But all this while you have declared only the truth of the first principle of Kingly Sovereignty in his excellent Majesty; That receiving authority immediately from GOD, he hath no Superiour to punish him or chastise him, but GOD alone. I would therefore now intreat you to take the same paines in establishing the second principle of his supreme power; The bond of his Subjects, in obedience unto his Majesty, is inviolable, and cannot be dissolved.

Theodidatus

a Vespersenf.  
anno 1080.

b Sigeb. Ann  
1084  
c Sigeb. ann  
1085  
Found this  
written of him.

d Chro. lib. 6  
cap. 36

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*Theodidastus.* The principal meanes, whereby the seditious sons of Belial do pretend that this sacred bond may be dissolved, are either supposed crimes in the persons of Princes, as Tyranny in governing, Infidelity, Heresie, Apostacy; or Episcopal acts of the Bishop of Rome, as his Dispensations, and Excommunications.

*Philalethes.* How do you prove, that Tyranny in government doth not unloose this bond?

*Theodidastus.* Was not Saul a Tyrant, in hunting after the soul, and seeking the life of David, who was most faithful unto him amongst all his servants, whom he himself confessed to have rendered unto him good for evil?

Was he not a bloody oppressor, in commanding Doeg, without any just cause of offence, violently to run upon the Priests, and to slay fourscore and five persons that did wear a Linnen Ephod; to smite Nob the City of the Priests, both Man and Woman, both Child and Suckling, both Oxe, Ass, and Sheep, with the edge of the sword?

The blood of so many Innocents did cry unto GOD for vengeance, and by his special Commandement (Who so sheddeth mans blood, by man his blood shall be shed) deserved death: yet David, not an ordinary or private man, but by GODS own appointment designed unto the Kingdome, a chief Captain and Leader in the Kings battels, the Kings Son in law, when he had Saul delivered into his hands, and was encouraged by his servants to destroy him, said unto them, The Lord keep me from doing that thing unto my Master the Lords anointed, to lay my hand upon him; for he is the Lords anointed: And after unto Saul himself; Wickednes proceedeth from the wicked, but mine hand shall not be upon thee: and again unto Abishai, when the Lord another time had closed Saul into his hand; I Destroy him not, for who can lay hands upon the Lords anointed, and be guiltless? Which Pious and Religious acts of David towards Saul, amongst the Israelites, Optatus hath elegantly described, the

a 1 Sam. 24. 12

b 1 Sam. 22. 23

c 1 Sam. 22. 13

d 1 Sam. 24. 18

e 1 Sam. 22. 18, 19

f Gen. 9. 6

g 1 Sam. 24. 6

h Vaisc 14

i 1 Sam. 26. 9

E 2

more

a Lib. 2. advers.  
Parrm.

more effectually to commend them unto Christians. David (saith 'Optatus) had the occasion of victory in his hands, he might have cut the throat of his unwary and secure adversary, without any labour: he might without shedding of blood, without any conflict, have changed a publick war into a private slaughter. And his men, the victory, occasion, and opportunity encouraged him; he began to draw his sword, his armed hand was moving towards the throat of his enemy; but the perfect remembrance of GODS Commandements stayed him: he withstanding his men, and the occasions inciting him, in effect thus speaketh unto them: O victory, thou dost in vain provoke and invite me with thy triumphs: I would willingly conquer mine enemy; but I must rather keep Gods Commandements. I will not (saith he) lay my hands upon the Lords anointed. And so he repressed his hand together with his sword: and whiles he feared the oyl, saved his enemy.

b Mat. 5.

Philaletthes. Our blessed Saviours own precept and commandment is clear enough for the preserving of the lives, or of any thing else belonging to our enemies: Love<sup>b</sup> (saith he) your enemies, blesse them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that hurt you, and persecute you.

Theodidatus. You say well, that these words are CHRISTS precept or commandment: our Saviours preface unto them (Εγὼ λέγω ὑμῖν,) I say unto you, it is my decree) doth sufficiently prove it; and the words immediately following them (that you may be the Children of your Father which is in Heaven) are a most forcible motive to stir us up readily, and with alacrity to yield obedience unto this commandment. Although then Kings and Princes, through their tyranny, persecution, and oppression, shou'd be our enemies, as Saul was unto David (thine enemy, saith Abisai of Saul unto David,) yet we are to love<sup>d</sup> them from our hearts, to blesse and pray for them with our tongues, and to do good unto them by our actions. For these duties by our Saviours commandment are to be performed of us unto private men that are our enemies; much more unto

e 1 Sam. 24.  
d Saluator tria  
præcipit inimicis  
exhibenda: quæ  
vix primum di-  
ligere ad Cor per-  
tinet; secundum  
nampe benefacere  
ad opus; tertium  
benedicere, bene  
precari & orare,  
ad linguam. Jan-  
senius. Cap. 40.  
Cm6.

unto publick persons, the Princes and Potentates of the Earth. That elect vessel Saint *Paul* exhorting us to *blesse all men by our prayers, supplications, and intercessions,* presently mentioneth *Kings,* and all that are in authority, as persons for whom, after a more special manner, we are to pour out our supplications unto God. Likewise *Tertullian*'s teaching, that according unto the Christian doctrine, *To wish evil, to do evil, to think evil, is indifferently forbidden us towards all men,* thence inferreth, if we are not to offer the least of these injuries to any man, much lesse to him that is so highly advanced by our GOD, speaking of the Emperour.

a 1 Tim. 2.

b In Analegetico cap 36.

*Philalethes.* Who was this Emperour, of whom *Tertullian* speaketh?

*Theodidactus.* It was *Severus*: for under him (saith *Hierom*) *Tertullian* flourished.

c In Catal.

*Philalethes.* Was this Emperour a Tyrant in his government?

*Theodidactus.* Yea, an unbelieving Tyrant, an Infidel, that did grievously persecute the Christians, whom he did afflict with the fifth famous persecution.

*Philalethes.* Then I perceive by *Tertullian*'s judgement, that not only tyranny, but likewise tyranny joyned with infidelity, doth not unloose the bond of duty and obedience from Subjects unto their Sovereign.

*Theodidactus.* You may learn this truth from a more ancient and authentick Author then *Tertullian*, even from the blessed Apostle Saint *Peter*: This holy Servant of GOD writ his first Epistle in the time of *Claudius* the Emperour, and did direct it unto his Countrymen the Jews, there and there throughout *Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Rythinia,* which were Regions then subject unto the Roman Emperour. For many yeares before *Claudius* reign, *Pompey*'s the great made these Regions Roman Provinces.

And because some Seducers (as *Josephus* witnesseth) had perswaded the Jews, under a pretext of maintaining their liberty, that tribute was not to be paid to

d *Severus* quinta post *Neronom* persecutione Christianos excruciauit; OROS. & BARO: in CHR: 205. Sauiissima persecutione.

Baro. to 1 anno

45

e The *Pemiss* in their table of Peter.

f 1 Pet. 1

g S 70: Comment: in l. b. 2 Sulpitii.

h *Judaicarum*

*Antiquit: lib: 18*

cap: 1 & lib: 2

de bello Iudaic:

cap: 12.



1 Peter 2. 16  
& 18

Cæsar, neither any mortal man was to be accounted as a Prince or Lord over them, but GOD only: Saint Peter exhorteth them to to be free, <sup>a</sup> as not having their liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of GOD, and to fear GOD, but yet to honour the King also: And although Magistrates be men, and so their ordinance, in regard of the persons in whom it doth reside, but humane: yet to submit themselves unto them, for the Lords sake, from whom they received their authority.

Philalethes. This King, whom Saint Peter would have his brethren the Jews to honour, and that as Supreme, cannot be any other then the Emperour Claudius, under whom (as you have shewed) Saint Peter writ his Epistle, and whose Subjects were the inhabitants of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Bythinia, unto whom Saint Peter inscribed his Epistle. And Saint Peter might well term this Emperour a King, because the Roman Emperours (saith Appian) were in all their deeds and actions Kings.

Prof. Hist.

Theodidactus. Your collection and inference is very firm, and full of truth: And therefore Saint Peter exhorteth his brethren the Jews (himself residing then at Rome) to submit themselves; and to be subject unto a profane Infidel, a cruel Tyrant. For Claudius, upon the sight of the least prodigy, worshipped the heathen gods after the custome of the ancient Romans: he was naturally so merciless, and given to blood-shed, that he would have tortures in examinations, punishments for Parricides executed in his own presence: he had most cruel searchers of all that came but to salute him, sparing not any Sex or Age, delighted to see the faces of Fencers (whose throats he had caused to be cut, for stumbling by chance in their sword-fights) as they lay gasping and yielding up their breath: he was excessively given to the wanton love of women, and was so intbralled unto his wives and freemen, that, as it was commodious unto them or stood with their affection, he granted honourable Dignities, conferred the

b Bero. anno 45  
Rhemists in  
their table of  
Peter

c Suet. cap. 22

d Suet. cap. 34

e Suet. cap. 33

f Suet. cap. 29



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the conducts of armies, and decreed immunities or punishments.

Unto such an unbelieving and bloody oppressor, Saint Peter earnestly exhorteth the believing Jews to yield obedience.

Philalethes. *After what manner? In outward shew and appearance, only of constraint, and because (willed they, nilled they) they were to obey?*

Theodidastus. No: for Saint Paul writing his Epistle unto the Romans <sup>a</sup>living under the same Emperour, commandeth <sup>b</sup>every soul to be subject unto the higher powers, and not because of wrath, not out of fear of outward force, or violence, but for conscience sake; and for that these higher powers are the Ordinance of GOD, the Ministers of GOD. And this is, as the same Apostle elsewhere <sup>c</sup>admonisheth, to yield obedience unto them from the heart, as serving the Lord and not men.

<sup>a</sup> Remits in  
their table of  
Paul  
<sup>b</sup> Rom. 13

<sup>c</sup> Col. 3  
Ephes. 6

Which heavenly doctrine of the Apostles was afterward often iterated by the Fathers of the Primitive Church in their Writings, least by the fraud of Satan it might slip out of the minds of the faithful. Justin Martyr, in the name of the Christians in his dayes, faith unto Antoninus, an unbelieving Emperour, and a <sup>d</sup>persecutor; *We only adore GOD, and in all other things (not of constraint but) cheerfully perform service unto you: And Augustine: The powers that are, are of GOD: hence we honour a Gentile placed in power, although be himself, who holding Gods Order giveth thanks unto the Devil, be unworthy: for the power requireth it, and deserveth honour, as ordained of GOD.*

<sup>d</sup> Persecutio  
sub Antonino.  
Bellar. in Chron.  
c Apol. 2, ad  
Anton. Imper.

Philalethes. *Howsoever Infidelity doth not dissolve the bond of a Subject in duty and allegiance unto his Sovereign; yet may not Heresie and Apostacy?*

Theodidastus. Constantius, Valens, Valentinianus the younger, were Arian Hereticks: yet we read not that they were rejected by Orthodox Christians as unlawful, and usurping Emperours.

And

a Aug. 124. Pf.

And (which is worse) was not Julian an Apostate, an Idolater? yet \*Christian Souldiers served this unbelieving Lord; and when he said, Go forth to fight, invade such a Nation, they obeyed.

Philaethes. Some say this was for want of strength and forces to resist.

b Ru'sse. lib. 2.  
hist. ca. 7. 1

c In Psal. 124.

Theodidactus. They could not want strength, when the greatest part of Julians Army were Christian, as it appeared instantly upon his death, by their joynt exclamation unto Jovinian his Successor: For this Army chusing Jovinian Emperour; and he refusing to have any Imperial command over them, because he was a Christian, and they Pagans, <sup>b</sup> all of them with one voice made answer And we are Christians. It was not then for want of power they obeyed, but rather, as <sup>c</sup> Augustine writeth of them, They were subject unto Julian their temporal Lord, for his sake that was their eternal Lord and Master, and out of obedience unto his commandements.

If Subjects are obliged in duty, and out of conscience, cheerfully to obey tyrannous, unbelieving, heretical, apostatical Princes, as Powers ordained of God, with what alacrity then should we be in all things obsequious unto our gracious and religious Sovereign? Gracious, as being like unto GOD, whose Vicegerent he is in this, that his clemency and mercy is over all his works: Religious, in that he is a zealous promugner of the ancient and Catholick Faith, not only by his Kingly power and authority, but likewise by the learned pen of a ready Writer.

Notwithstanding some are so blinded with the Roman superstition, that they are ready upon some pretended acts of the Bishop of Rome, as upon his Dispensations, or Excommunications, to renounce their obedience unto so merciful and pious a Prince.

Philaethes. May not then the Bishop of Rome, either by dispensing with the law, which bindeth Subjects unto obedience; or with the Oath, whereby they sincerely swear to perform this obedience unto his excellent Majesty, unloose the bond of their allegiance?

Theodidactus,

*Theodidactus.* The Bishop of Rome cannot dispense with the Law of Nature; which <sup>a</sup> from the first beginning of the reasonable creature is unchangeable, nor with the Moral Law of GOD, <sup>b</sup> whose Precepts are indispensable. But the duty of Subjects in obedience unto their Sovereign, is grounded upon the Law of Nature; beginning with our first beginning. For as we be born Sons, so we are born Subjects; his Sons, from whose loyns; his Subjects, in whose Dominions we are born. The same duties of Subjects are also enjoined by the Moral Law, and particularly (as you shewed in the very entrance unto this our Conference) in the fifth Commandment, *Honor thy Father and thy Mother*: where, as we are required to honor the Fathers of private Families, so much more the Father of our Countrey and the whole Kingdom. And as the Bishop of Rome cannot dispense with these Laws imposing upon us Obedience unto His MAJESTY, so neither with the Oath we take to persevere in this Obedience. When David said, *I have* <sup>c</sup> *sworn that I will keep thy righteous Judgements*, if the Bishop of Rome had been then in his fulness of power, could he have dispensed with this Oath? And so if any now, by the example of David, swear to keep Gods righteous Judgements of *not committing Adultery*, or of *honoring their Parents*, and *Magistrates*; he cannot free them from this Oath: but if we violate both these Commandments, we are as well Rebels, as Adulterers.

*Philalethes.* Are not the Excommunications of the Bishop of Rome of more force to loose the bond of Allegiance, than his Dispensations?

*Theodidactus.* These likewise have no power to work this effect. Excommunication upon a contempt unto the Church, doth not make a man worse than an <sup>d</sup> *Ethnick*: but you have heard that both Saint Peter and Saint Paul, earnestly exhort us to be subject unto Heaven,

F

and

e *Aquin. in sup.*  
*que 22.*  
*Toler. Inft.*  
*Sacerd. l. 1. c. 9*

f 1 Sam. 24. 11  
 g 1 Sam.  
 h 2 Chro. 29.  
*Deborah a mother in Israel.*  
*Judg. 5. 7.*

and Ethnick Princes; and therefore we may also yield obedience unto excommunicated Princes: besides, Excommunication (according to the doctrine of the <sup>a</sup> Romanists themselves) doth not free a servant from obedience unto his Master, or a son unto his Father. And Kings are as *Masters*, and *Subjects* as *Servants*; for so David calleth *Saul* <sup>t</sup> his Master, and stileth himself his <sup>s</sup> servant: Kings are as <sup>b</sup> Fathers, and subjects as <sup>s</sup> sons; for so King *Ezechias* was a Father over the Fathers of his people; even the Priests; and therefore much more over the rest of his subjects. As then Excommunication doth not dissolve the bond of Duty between *Fathers* and *Sons*, of Service between *Masters* and *Servants*, no more doth it the bond of Fidelity between *Princes* and their *Subjects*. And so at length I have proved unto you, that neither supposed Crimes in Princes, as *Tyranny*, *Infidelity*, *Heretic*, *Apostasie*; nor the Episcopal Acts of *Dispensation*, and *Excommunication*; and so, in effect, that nothing can free Subjects from their Fidelity and Allegiance unto their Prince.

*Philalethes.* Nothing! The Seal of Confession doth at least in part free some Subjects from special Duties of Obedience unto their Sovereign; as Priests from revealing Treasons, and Conspiracies which they know, as Ghostly Fathers, from the penitent. For if Conspiracies or Treasons be known unto a Priest in Confession, the Bond thereof doth binde him to conceal it, <sup>i</sup> because they are known unto him as unto God, whose Vicar he is in hearing the humble Confessions of repentant Sinners.

i *Aquin. in sup.*  
 q. 11. Art. 1.

*Theodidactus.* If Priests in Confessions do understand of Treasons and other enormous Offences, endangering the publick Safety of the Church or Common-weal as GOD, and as his Vicars; then they are to imitate GOD, whom they would represent, in the discovering of these grievous Crimes. For GOD always doth after a miraculous manner, and (as it were) by his own immediate

immediate finger, bring to light crying Sins, when they are done in secret, and for a time are inwrapped in darkness.

Did he not by the Birds of the Air dete& the Murderer of \* *Ibycus*? And because the persons of Princes are \* *Isy&ut ut pe- more sacred than the persons of private men, GOD* *rijs, vinde x* hath made a special promise in his Word, that he will *suit altivolans* dete& \* *Curses*, conceived onely in the heart, against *gens. Aufon. k Ecclef. 10.* Kings, by the *souls of the Heaven* (that is) after a strange and miraculous manner, if by ordinary means they shall not be revealed. And therefore some Priests of *France* have detected intendments of Treason, onely in thought heard by them in Confession: and the Authors of these intendments have been punished with death. A \* *Gent-* *l Bdin. lib. 2.* *leman of Normandy in France* confessed unto a *Frier de Re. pub. ca. 5* *Minor*, that he had once a Resolution to murder King *Francis*, and that he repented \* of his wicked purpose. The Frier gave him Absolution, but revealed his wicked purpose unto the King: and after deliberation had thereof in the Parliament of *Paris*, the Gentleman was executed; and the Frier not punished with any Censure of the Church for his dete&ion.

Priests then are in GODS stead, whiles they hear *Penitents* confessing their sins, not to conceal these sins if they be enormous and dangerous unto the publick State; but according to their Commission, (*whose sins* *ye* \* *remit, they are remitted*) to declare unto them the re- *m John 10.* mission of their sins, as they are offences onely against GOD, and before his heavenly Tribunal.

*Philaethies.* But the Law of the Church commandeth Priests to conceal all such sins as come unto their knowledge by way of Confession.

*Theodidactus.* This Law of the Church, is but the Law of Pope \* *Innocent* the Third, cited in the Decretals, *n C. Omnis u-* *triusq; de Pe-* *niten. & Re-* *miss.* (for he is the most ancient Author that the \* *Romanists* *\* See Valentin* can alledge for their Seal of Confession: ) But were it a *Tom. 4. dist. 7.* *q. 13. p. 1:*

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Law of the whole Church, it is but an *Ecclesiastical Law*. Now if Duties enjoyned by GOD himself in his *Moral Law*, as not to do any manner of work upon the Sabbath day, may be omitted by our <sup>o</sup> Saviors Commandment, to save the life of a beast: May not some things, imposed onely by an *Ecclesiastical Law*, be neglected for saving the Life of a King, upon whom so many lives depend? So that neither the *Seal of Confession* doth free us from any part of the duties of Allegiance unto our Sovereign.

*Philaletthes*. If the Bond of Allegiance from Subjects unto their Prince is so inviolable, that nothing, no not the Seal of Confession, can dissolve it; is there no means to stay the fury of a Sovereign Commander, if he should be so tyrannous and profane, as to endeavour to oppress the whole Church at once, and utterly to extinguish the light of Christian Religion?

*Theodidastus*. Princes in their rage may endeavour wholly to destroy Christs Church: but in vain; because Christ hath so built it upon a <sup>p</sup> rock, that the strength and gates of hell shall not ever so far prevail against it, as quite to vanquish it. And when they do labour to effect so heinous an Impiety, the onely means we have to appease their fury, is *serious repentance* for our sins, which have brought this chastisement upon us, and humble Prayer unto GOD, who guideth the hearts of Princes like Rivers of waters. You know how before the coming of CHRIST, the visible Church was onely amongst the Jewes; and that, whiles they were Captives under the Persian Monarchs, *Assuerus* at the instigation of *Haman*, sent forth a Decree to <sup>o</sup> destroy them all, both young and old, children and women, in one day. Here the whole Church by the barbarous Designment of *Assuerus*, seemed to be in the very Jaws of Death, yet they take no Arms, they consult not how to poison *Assuerus* or *Haman*, they animate no desperate person suddenly to stab them; but there was onely <sup>1</sup> great sorrow amongst

• *Mat. 12.*

• *Mat. 16.*

• *Ester 4.*

• *Ester 4.*

amongst them, and fasting, and weeping, many lying in sack-cloth and ashes, to humble themselves under the mighty hand of GOD for their sins, and to avert his wrath hanging over their heads, by the cruelty of so bloody a Tyrant.

And the ancient Christians, upon the like occasions, imitated these Jewes. For when they were threatned by Julian the Apostata, with an utter Extinction of Christianity, they hindred and <sup>repressed him with their</sup> tears, having this onely remedy against the Persecuter. If any therefore are oppressed with the Tyranny of their Supream Governors, let them (saith <sup>Sarisburyensis</sup>, even in the darkness of Popery) flie unto the patronage of GODS mercy, and with devout Prayer turn away the whip wherewith they are scourged: \* For the sins of offenders, \* *Peccata enim delinquentium sunt vires Tyrannorum.*

Philaethes. To be freed from Tyranny and Oppression in this world, is a temporal benefit: and many times GOD hearkeneth not unto our prayers for temporal benefits. How then are faithful and loyal Subjects to comfort themselves, against the pressures of merciless Tyrants?

Theodidactus. Their onely comfort in this case, is that which Saint Augustine long since ministred unto them. The rod of sinners (saith he, speaking of wicked Masters and Magistrates) lieth heavy upon the lot of the righteous; but not for ever. The time will come when one GOD shall be acknowledged: The time will come when one CHRIST, appearing in his brightness, shall gather before him all Nations, and sever them, as a Pastor severeth his Goats from the Sheep, and place his Sheep upon his right hand, and his Goats upon his left. And then thou shalt see many servants, and subjects, amongst the Sheep, and many masters, and Princes, amongst the Goats: and again many masters, and Princes, amongst the Sheep, and many subjects and servants amongst the Goats. So that when all other helps and comforts do fail distressed Subjects; the Day of

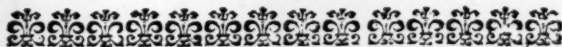


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of Judgement, the end of all transitory things, will bring an end unto their sorrows.

Philalethes. *With this end of all things, I pray you, let us end this our Conference; beseeching GOD so to affect the hearts both of Princes and Subjects, with a serious and frequent cogitation of this last Judgement; that they in Governing, these in Obeying, both in all their actions, and whatsoever they do, may (with Saint Hierome) have the voice of the Archangel always sounding in their eares, Arise from the dead, and come unto Judgement.*

*De Reg. &  
Monacho.*



# F I N I S.

